

HOUSE BILL 2804

By Hawk

AN ACT to amend Chapter 741 of the Public Acts of 2006
and Chapter 767 of the Public Acts of 2004,
relative to the Purple Heart Trail.

WHEREAS, Chapter 767 of the Public Acts of 2004 established the Purple Heart Trail in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, certain highway segments in Tennessee were designated as part of the Purple Heart Trail by the initial act, and several more were added by Chapter 741 of the Public Acts of 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of an enemy, and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action; Purple Hearts have been awarded for military action since World War II; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart Trail is a symbolic and honorary system of roads in Tennessee that pays tribute to the brave men and women who have been awarded the Purple Heart; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Body of Unicoi County has requested that Interstate 26 in such county be included within the Purple Heart Trail designation; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The following highway segment in Tennessee shall be designated as the "Purple Heart Trail":

That segment of Interstate 26 in Unicoi County.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers at appropriate locations designating the highway segment described in Section 1 as the "Purple Heart Trail".

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. The appellation "Purple Heart Trail" provided for in this act is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address, or the governmental system for assigning addresses, in any county, municipality, or other governmental entity affected by this act.

SECTION 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any previously named segment or segments of any highway described in Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 7. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state and nonlocal government funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state and non-local government funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.